

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14-25 were allowed, 1-3, 8, 9, 13, 26-28, 30-32, 37, 38, 41 and 43-45 were rejected, and claims 4-7, 10-12, 29, 33-36, 39, 40 and 42 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1, 12, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 40 are amended and claims 11, 13, 27, 30 and 41 are cancelled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-10, 12, 14-26, 28-29, 31-40 and 42-45 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

As summarized below, the claim amendments have been made to expedite prosecution and to focus on essentially allowable subject matter. Although the Examiner has the prerogative to refuse entry of the amendments, Applicants kindly request that the amendments be entered to place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13, 26-28, 30-32, 37, 38, 41 and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ridler et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,023,130 (hereinafter "Ridler"). A *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a showing that each limitation of a claim is found in a single reference, practice or device. *In re Donohue*, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Applicants respectfully assert that the present invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 26 and 31 is patentable over the Ridler reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 11. Claims 4-7 and 10-12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While the recitations of intervening claim 2 have not been incorporated into claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that *Ridler fails to teach, disclose or suggest a permanent magnet assembly in an imaging system* as recited in amended independent claim 1. Claims 11 and 13 are cancelled by the present response.

Claim 12 has been amended based on the amendments to claim 1. As dependent claims 2-10 and 12 depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 1 these claims are also considered to be allowable. Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are further allowable by virtue of the subject matter they separately recite.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the recitations of claims 27 and 29. Claim 29 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While not all of the recitations of claim 29 have been incorporated into claim 26, Applicants submit that claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Claims 27 and 30 are cancelled by the present response. Claims 28 and 29 have been amended based on the amendments to claim 26. As dependent claims 28 and 29 depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 26 these claims are also considered to be allowable. Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are further allowable by virtue of the subject matter they separately recite.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 40. Claims 33-36, 39-40, and 42 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While not all of the recitations of claim 40 have been incorporated into claim 31 and the recitations of intervening claim 32 have not been incorporated into claim 31, Applicants submit that claim 31 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that *Ridler fails to teach, disclose or suggest a permanent magnet assembly in an imaging system* as recited in amended independent claim 1. Claim 41 is cancelled by the present response. Claim 40 has been amended based on the amendments to claim 31. As dependent claims 32-40 and 42-45 depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 31 these claims are also considered to be allowable. Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are further allowable by virtue of the subject matter they separately recite.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545